

# **SOLICITATION NOTICE**

## **CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA) SECTION 319(h)**

### **NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM CONCEPT PROPOSAL**

**COMPLETE APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5:00 P.M. ON  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013.**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Division of Financial Assistance is accepting applications for the Nonpoint Source (NPS) Grant Program (Grant Program). The Grant Program is used to support Implementation and Planning/Assessment Projects to improve water quality and restore beneficial uses in Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watersheds with comprehensive watershed-based plans that are identified by the NPS Program (NPS Program Preferences) ([Attachment 1](#)). Funds for this Grant Program are appropriated by Congress under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act (CWA 319(h)) to restore waters impaired by NPS pollution. These funds are made available via a grant agreement between the State Water Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Eligible applicants include public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes. For additional information, refer to the 2014 CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program Guidelines (Program Guidelines) ([Attachment 1](#)). Eligible applicants are encouraged to collaborate with local entities involved in watershed management.

***In order to be eligible, applicants must work directly with their appropriate Regional Water Board Grant Coordinator (Grant Coordinator) (Appendix 7) and appropriate staff (If directed to do so by the Grant Coordinator) throughout all phases of the grant application process, including development of the project proposal. Proposed projects must be identified in the NPS Program Preferences ([Attachment 1](#)).***

#### **Project Eligibility and Funding Availability**

Approximately \$4 Million is available for the 2014 solicitation to support Implementation and Planning/Assessment Projects in watersheds identified as NPS Program Preferences ([Attachment 1](#)). Table 1 below specifies the project type, funding match requirements and the minimum and maximum CWA 319(h) funding available per project. A minimum match of 25% of the total project cost is required, but may be waived or reduced for projects that directly benefit a disadvantaged community ([Attachment 1](#) and [Appendix 4](#)). Projects that involve septic system upgrades require a minimum match of 75% of the total project cost.

**Table 1: 2014 CWA 319(h) Project Type Information and Funding Requirements**

Project Types	Approximate funding Amount	Project Funding Range	Match Requirement
<b>Implementation Projects</b> - that implement actions to restore impaired surface waters by controlling NPS pollution. Implementation projects include on-the ground NPS pollutant reduction projects that achieve quantifiable water quality benefits in an adopted or nearly adopted TMDL included in the NPS Program Preferences and that are identified in comprehensive watershed plans. Maximum grant project period is three years.	\$3,000,000	Minimum: \$250,000 Maximum: \$ 750,000	25% ( <b>of the total project cost</b> ), 75% (of the total project cost for septic system upgrades)
<b>Planning/Assessment Projects</b> - that improve watershed plans by carrying out targeted planning/assessment efforts that clearly lead to implementing activities to achieve water quality goals. Planning and assessment projects include activities called for by adopted or nearly adopted TMDLs identified in the NPS Program Preferences to direct and improve existing watershed planning efforts to be effective guides toward achieving water quality results. Maximum grant period is two years.	\$1,000,000	Minimum: \$75,000 Maximum: \$175,000	25% ( <b>of the total project cost</b> ), 75% (of the total project cost for septic system upgrades)

Ineligible projects are identified in [Attachment 1](#).

### Solicitation Process

The Program Guidelines ([Attachment 1](#)) for soliciting applications, evaluating proposals, and awarding grants were established by the State Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) and USEPA. The CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program Solicitation will be a two-step process. In the first step, applicants will submit brief Concept Proposals (CPs) using the State Water Board's on-line Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST). Applicants with the highest-ranking CPs based on evaluations by staff from the State Water Board, Regional Water Boards, and USEPA (Review Panel) will be invited back to submit a Full Proposal (FP). After a thorough review of all FPs by the Review Panel, a recommended funding list will be developed and presented to the State Water Board Executive Director for final approval.

All applicants requesting funds from the CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program must submit a complete electronic CP by **5:00 pm on Thursday, September 12, 2013** using the State Water Board's online FAAST system at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

To be considered complete, the submitted CP application must include all of the items in the checklist below. Applicants should use this checklist to verify all required information is submitted using the FAAST. Eligibility and program requirements for the CWA 319(h) NPS

Grant Program included in this Solicitation Notice are based on the Program Guidelines, which is available on-line at the [State Water Board's website](#) ([Attachment 1](#)).

**Table 1: Checklist for Completing the Online Concept Proposal Application**

Within the FAAST, the following SECTIONS must be completed and submitted:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Information</b> (For the project location information requested in this section, specify the latitude and longitude values that are representative of the project. For large areas of land, specify the mid-point of the area. For a waterbody, specify the mid-point of the waterbody area/reach.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Funding Programs</b> Check the box next to the "CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program". Consult with the Grant Coordinator listed in <a href="#">Appendix 7</a> of this notice prior to developing a proposal for all questions regarding applicant eligibility, project eligibility, and program priorities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Project Management</b> Please indicate the Project Director and the Project Manager from the applicant's organization.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Legislative Information</b> Enter the State assembly, State senate, and U.S. congressional districts where the project is located. For projects that include more than one district, please enter each district. Look at the tables provided in FAAST to assist with determining the appropriate districts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agency Contacts</b> This section must include all agency contacts (State Water Board, Regional Water Board, and the USEPA) that assisted in the development of the project proposal. You may enter more than one agency contact.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Cooperating Entities</b> List the organizations that will assist the applicant in implementing the project, including partner organizations, consultants, and volunteers. You may enter more than one cooperating entity. We may contact cooperating agencies as part of the application review process.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Application Questionnaire</b> The concept proposal questions are shown in FAAST.
	<b>Required Attachments:</b> <u>Implementation</u> - Attachment A. Provide a 10 page (maximum) Project Narrative. The ten (10) page maximum includes: 1 page project description, 5 page narrative, 2 pages for maps, and 2 pages for a budget.  <u>Planning/Assessment</u> - Attachment B. Provide a nine (9) page (maximum) Project Narrative. The 9 page maximum includes: 1 page project description, 4 page narrative, 2 pages for maps, and 2 pages for budget.  Include the word "Attachment A", the FAAST PIN#, and Title of the Project at the top/header of the first page. Label each section that you are answering. Instructions for the Implementation and Planning/Assessment Project Narrative are Attachment 2 of the Solicitation Notice.  The Attachments must conform to the following format; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not exceed the <b>maximum</b> number of pages in length;</li> <li>• PDF format</li> <li>• Letter (8.5" x 11") size paper;</li> <li>• Single-line spacing;</li> <li>• Standard font - Size 11 or larger;</li> <li>• Reasonable margins, and</li> <li>• Pages numbered.</li> </ul>

For further assistance on the CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program, please contact Mr. Matthew Freese of the Division of Water Quality at (916) 341-5485 or [MFreese@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:MFreese@waterboards.ca.gov)

For questions about the State Water Board's FFAST, please contact Ms. Patricia Leary of the Division of Financial Assistance, at (916) 341-5167 or [pleary@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:pleary@waterboards.ca.gov). You may also contact FFAST staff by phone at 1-866-434-1083, Monday through Friday, 8 am–5 pm, or by email at [faast\\_admin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:faast_admin@waterboards.ca.gov).

**Table 2: 2014 NPS Implementation Grant Schedule**

DATES SHOWN IN ITALICS ARE TENTATIVE DATES

<b>MILESTONE OR ACTIVITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
Solicitation Notice Released	August 5, 2013
<b>Concept Proposal applications must be submitted to the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. <u>Applications submitted after 5:00 p.m. on the due date will not be reviewed or considered for funding.</u></b>	<b>September 12, 2013</b>
Invite selected applicants to submit Full Proposal applications.	November 18, 2013
<b>Full Proposal applications must be submitted to the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. <u>Applications submitted after 5:00 p.m. on the due date will not be reviewed or considered for funding.</u></b>	<b>January 16, 2014</b>
The State Water Board Executive Director approval of final grant awards.	May 2014